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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **CANTERPRISE LTD.** [NZ/NZ]; University of Canterbury, P.O. Box 4800, Christchurch (NZ).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **ABRAHAMSON, John** [NZ/NZ]; 16a de Thier Lane, Christchurch (NZ).

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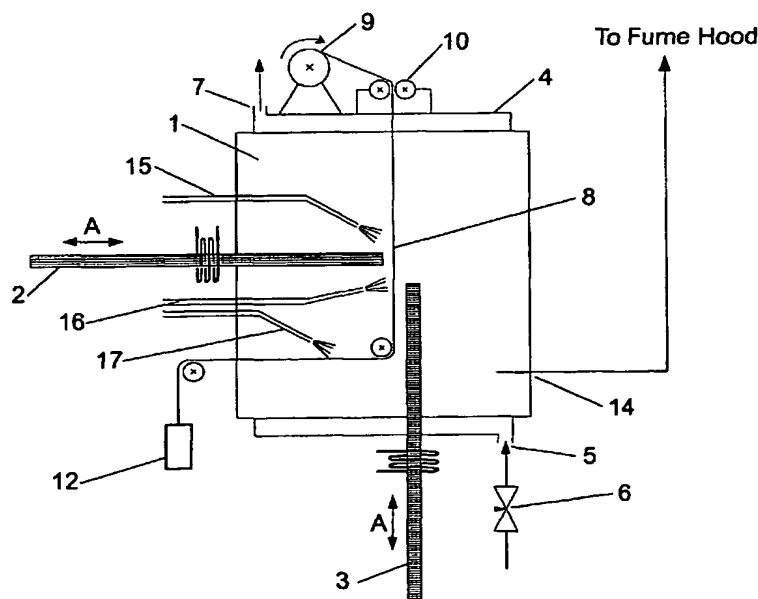
(74) Agents: **WEST-WALKER, Gregory, J. et al.**; A J Park, 6th Floor Huddart Parker Building, 1 Post Office Square, Post Office Square, PO Box 949, Wellington 6015 (NZ).

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(54) Title: CONTINUOUS METHOD FOR PRODUCING INORGANIC NANOTUBES



(57) Abstract: Production of nanotubes of carbon or of other inorganic material by moving a carbon-containing substrate (8), such as a tape or belt of carbon fibres, within a reaction chamber (1) either through an electric arc in a gap between two electrodes (2, 3) or adjacent an electrode so that an electric arc exists between the electrode and the substrate, to cause the nanotubes to form on the substrate (8). The method enables the continuous or semi-continuous production of nanotubes. Preferably, the process is carried out at atmospheric pressure and nanotubes of high purity are produced.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTERInt. Cl. ⁷: B82B 3/00, C01B 31/02, D01F 9/12

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

DWPI, JAPIO, USPTO, Espacenet: keywords: nanotube, nano tube, nano fibril, nano fibre, nano filament; carbon; arc.

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	JP 11-263610 A (TOYOTA MOTOR CORP) 28 September 1999 See machine translation: [online, retrieved 01-08-2002]. Retrieved from the Internet: <URL:http://www6.ipdl.jpo.go.jp/Tokujitu/PAJdetail.ipdl?N0000=60&N0120=01&N2001=2&N3001=H11-263610> See abstract, paragraph 12, figure 1	1, 4, 11, 18, 22
X	JP 11-310407 A (OSAKA GAS CO LTD) 9 November 1999 See machine translation: [online, retrieved 01-08-2002]. Retrieved from the Internet: <URL:http://www6.ipdl.jpo.go.jp/Tokujitu/PAJdetail.ipdl?N0000=60&N0120=01&N2001=2&N3001=H11-310407> See abstract, examples	1, 4, 11, 18, 22

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

2 August 2002

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Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU

AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE
PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA
E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au
Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929

Authorized officer

RAJEEV DESHMUKH
Telephone No : (02) 6283 2145

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	JP 2001-348216 A (SONY CORP) 18 December 2001 See machine translation: [online, retrieved 01-08-2002]. Retrieved from the Internet: <URL:http://www6.ipdl.jpo.go.jp/Tokujitu/PAJdetail.ipdl?N0000=60&N0120=01&N2001=2&N3001=2001-348216> See figure 1	1-23
A	US 6063243 A (ZETTL et al) 16 May 2000 See abstract, columns 1-2, figure 1	1-23

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/NZ02/00055

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report		Patent Family Member	
JP	11263610	NONE	
JP	11310407	NONE	
JP	2001348216	NONE	
US	6063243	US 6231980	US 2001023021
END OF ANNEX			